

and Technical Corrections Act of 2003. My amendment will strengthen our domestic dress shirt manufacturers and the pima cotton growers. My amendment is a technical correction that levels the playing field by correcting an anomaly in our trade laws that has unfairly advantaged foreign producers and sent hundreds of jobs offshore.

The amendment reduces duties levied on cotton shirting fabric, fabric that is not made in the United States. Currently, U.S. law recognized this lack of fabric availability and granted special favorable trade concessions to manufacturers in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, the Andean region, and Africa. The U.S. has allowed shirts to enter this country duty-free from so many other countries, while we have failed to reduce tariffs on those manufacturers that stayed in the U.S. and were forced to compete on these uneven terms. My amendment will correct this inequity.

This amendment also recognizes the need to creatively promote the U.S. shirting manufacturing and textiles sectors, and does so through the creation of a Cotton Competitiveness grant program, which is funded through a portion of previously collected duties.

Our country has experienced an enormous loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector. It is critical that our domestic manufactures be able to compete on a level playing field. In the case of the domestic dress shirting industry, the problem is our own government imposing a tariff of up to 11 percent upon the import of fabric made from U.S. pima cotton. My amendment is a concrete step that this Congress can take to reduce the hemorrhage of U.S. manufacturing jobs.

One group of beneficiaries of this amendment is a Gitman Brothers factory in Ashland, PA. The Ashland Shirt and Pajama factory was built in 1948 and employs 265 workers. This factory in the Lehigh Valley turns out world class shirts with such labels as Burberry and Saks Fifth Avenue that are shipped across the U.S. These workers and their families deserve trade laws that do not chase their jobs offshore. This amendment enjoys the support of the domestic shirting industry, UNITE, and the pima cotton associations.

I offer this legislation on behalf of the men and women of the Gitman factory in Ashland, the domestic dress shirting industry, and the pima cotton growers, so that for them free trade will indeed be fair trade as well.

#### SEPTEMBER 11TH VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND EXTENSION ACT OF 2003

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am saddened that the Senate has been unable to reach agreement to extend the pending deadline of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund to allow for more time for the many still grieving victims who have been unable to bring themselves to endure the painful process of filing claims.

On September 9, Senators DURBIN, SCHUMER, DODD, LIEBERMAN, CLINTON, CORZINE, and LAUTENBERG joined with me to introduce S. 1602, the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Extension Act of 2003. Unfortunately, this bill continues to be bottlenecked in the Judiciary Committee and blocked from Senate passage by anonymous Republican holds on the Senate floor. Every Democratic Senator has agreed to pass our legislation by unanimous consent, but one or more members of the majority are still objecting to its passage in the Senate.

Senator DASCHLE, Senator LAUTENBERG and I have reached out to our Republican colleagues to try to achieve a compromise to extend this arbitrary deadline. We have expressed our willingness to do so for a period of time less than one year, but unfortunately the opponents of this bill have refused to meet us partway. Moreover, they have been unable to explain why it is necessary to force these families to confront this pain during an already stressful time—the holiday season.

Along with Senator DASCHLE, Congressman GEPHARDT and others, I worked hard to create the Victims Fund in the wake of the September 11 attacks. We insisted that it be included in the legislation to bail out the airlines passed in the wake of the most devastating terrorist attacks on American soil. The authorized deadline of December 22, 2003, for applications to the Victims Fund is rapidly approaching, but it has become apparent that many families need more time before they can take that step. Thus, far only a minority of families have applied to the Fund for compensation, according to the Department of Justice.

Ken Feinberg, the Special Master of the Fund, has been doing his best to get victims families to understand their rights and I commend him and others for their efforts to reach out to the victims and their families.

Victims support groups have told me that to this day, they are still receiving calls from individuals who understand that the deadline is approaching but cannot face the emotional pain of preparing a claim. In a survey conducted recently by victims' organizations, 87 percent of the 356 victims who responded expressed support for extending the December 22 deadline by 1 year. Mr. Feinberg has also commented that many victims remain too paralyzed by their grief to confront the logistical burden and emotional pain of filing a death claim.

In light of this painful reality, I believe it would have been appropriate to extend the deadline for filing applications to the Victims Fund. This extension would have given grieving families additional time to mourn those who were lost and to overcome the emotional challenges of filing paperwork with the Victims Fund. Every single September 11 victims support group that I have spoken with agreed that a modest extension would provide some

relief during these dark days for victims' families as they endure the grieving process. There is simply no reason not to grant these families a little bit of relief by extending the deadline. I am disappointed and saddened that anonymous Republican holds will result in unnecessarily closing off the September 11 Victim Fund before each victim had a sufficient chance to consider their options.

With the holiday season upon us, victims did not need this arbitrary deadline confronting them. This was something that the Senate could and should have accomplished for the still grieving victims of September 11. It is an unnecessary shame that we have not done so.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### FREEDOM TO TRAVEL TO CUBA ACT OF 2003

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to express deep frustration with the way congressional leaders have thwarted the will of the majority of Members on Cuba.

Last month, the Senate approved an amendment to the Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill that would suspend enforcement of the Cuba travel restrictions. We passed this amendment 59 to 36—a 23-vote margin. In September, the House approved the same amendment 227 to 188—a 39-vote margin.

So, both Chambers of Congress approved the same amendment to suspend enforcement of the Cuba travel ban and to allow travel by Americans to Cuba. These votes reflected the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of Americans who support ending the utterly ineffectual travel ban.

Opinion leaders, too, in newspapers all across the country, in papers big and small, applauded the Senate and House votes. Orlando, Chicago, New York, Winston-Salem, Tuscaloosa, and San Diego. Papers from every corner of the country commended Congress for its efforts and called for an end to the absurd travel ban.

Then, the Senate Foreign Relations approved by a 13-to-5 margin a bill—S. 950, the Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act of 2003—that would permanently repeal the Cuba travel ban. Senator ENZI and I, along with 31 other colleagues—fully one-third of the Senate, from both sides of the aisle and representing every region of this country—introduced this legislation because we felt the time had come to end this pointless ban on American liberty. As its vote demonstrates, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee agrees.

Given these votes, and given the popular support for our efforts to end the travel ban, one would think the conferees of the Transportation-Treasury appropriations bill would not be able to strip out our amendment. When the Senate and House have approved the

same amendment, there ought to be nothing for conferees to reconcile.

But here we are with an omnibus bill that does not include our amendment to suspend enforcement of the Cuba travel ban. How did this happen?

It wasn't the conferees. Thirteen of the 16 Senate conferees were supportive of our amendment. The conferees would not have stripped out the amendment.

But the congressional leadership would. And they did, before even submitting the bill to the conference committee for consideration. They pointed to a phony veto threat—not made by the President—to justify a blatantly political move calculated to improve their standing with a small number of constituents in Florida.

This, despite a recent poll by the Miami Herald and St. Petersburg Times that found that most Florida voters favor lifting the ban on travel to Cuba—by better than a 2-to-1 margin.

Is this democracy in action? Is this the example we are setting for the rest of the world? Is this the example of participatory government that we hold to the Cuban dissidents as the beacon of freedom and liberty?

If this ugly episode were the only consequence of this administration's obsession with retaining the failed Cuba travel ban, that would be bad enough.

But it is not the only consequence. Far worse, the administration's pandering to its south Florida allies is undermining U.S. efforts to fight terrorism.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, OFAC, is charged with enforcing sanctions against foreign countries, terrorist networks, international narcotics traffickers, and those involved in proliferating weapons of mass destruction.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### WILLIAM JOHNSON'S RETIREMENT

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize William Johnson's retirement after 33 years of teaching in the Brandywine School District. His dedication has won him the respect of two generations of faculty and students alike, along with the gratitude of many in our State. He has been, and remains, a trusted friend.

Mr. Johnson has spent much of his life in public service. He served honorably in the United States Army for 6 years, from 1965–1971. His teaching career at Hanby Middle School in Wilmington, Delaware, where he has taught Earth and Space Science for 23 years comes to an end this month. He will be sorely missed there.

Mr. Johnson received his bachelor's degree in Education from Delaware State University and his Master's in Education from Antioch University. He has also taken advanced studies classes at the University of Pennsylvania and

has completed all the classes needed for a doctorate degree with California Coast University. He will be dedicating much of his time after his retirement to working on his dissertation in Earth and Space Science.

Having taught at Hanby since 1980, there are many attributes that make Mr. Johnson a great teacher. He has an unparalleled commitment to his craft. He stays after school on a regular basis to work on experiments with his students, teaches remedial classes with the same expectations as every other class, and ensures his students have a lot of hands on experience in the classroom. In 1997, Mr. Johnson led a group of six students in an inventor's club as they tried to come up with inventions for the Duracell Battery Company. With his leadership and guidance, the students came up with several creations, including a curb sensor to help cars detect curbs behind them, a laser device that takes atmospheric and meteorological measurements, and a computer program that analyzes satellites and orbits around the earth. These inventions are extraordinary for middle school students.

In addition, in October of 1998, Mr. Johnson was honored and certified by then-Vice President Al Gore as a teacher of the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment Program. Some 500 people were honored with the certification, which enables the teachers to teach students how to view environmental images and read globe data in hopes of determining the effects of global warming.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the Delaware Teachers of Science, National Science Teachers' Association, American Federation of Teachers and the Satellites Educators' Association. Over the years, Mr. Johnson has received many awards and honors including Who's Who Teacher of the Year, FAME Teacher of the Year, as well as Hanby's Teacher of the Year candidate. He also serves as a representative for the United Negro College Fund—UNCF—in the Brandywine School District, coordinating donations from teachers and administrators. The fund goes to support various black colleges across the nation.

Mr. Johnson is married to the former M. Patricia Durnell. The two were married in West Chester, PA in August, 1981, and now reside in Chadds Ford, PA. His hobbies and interests include reading, jogging, collecting baseball cards and jazz albums, baseball, golf, and alto saxophone.

Mr. Johnson is forever the consummate professional. He works hard at his job, works hard for his students, and never desires the spotlight or recognition for all his contributions. Through his tireless efforts, he has made a profound difference in the lives of thousands of students and enhanced the quality of life for an entire state. Upon his retirement, he will leave behind a legacy of commitment to public service for the generations that will

follow. On behalf of each student whose life Mr. Johnson has touched, let me express our heartfelt gratitude. We congratulate him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career, and we wish him and his family only the very best in all that lies ahead for each of them.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA ROTC

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize the outstanding work of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets at the University of Virginia who participated in a 24-hour vigil on September 15–16, 2003 in honor of National POW/MIA Remembrance Day. The POW/MIA Vigil specifically honors those men and women who defended our nation and never returned with a 24-hour, tri-service honor ceremony.

The ROTC cadets at the University of Virginia started their POW/MIA vigils in 2000 when Air Force cadet Elizabeth McGraw served as Arnold Air Society Deputy Commander. Subsequent vigils were commanded by Cadet Christopher Tulip in 2001, Cadet Tara Graul in 2002, and Cadet Jeremy Porto in 2003.

This year's Vigil planning committee included Cadets James Hayne, Joshua Becker, Alina Sullivan, Dan Barton, and Nic Skirpan. U.S. Air Force Colonel John C. Vrba, commander of AFROTC Detachment 890 at Virginia, supervised the ceremony, which began with a solemn precision drill performance by members of the AFROTC Drill Team: Cadets Suzanne Hahl, Jacklyn Noveras, Brandon Bert, Timothy Farwell, and James Hayne. Air Force and Army Cadets, and Navy Midshipmen from the three ROTC detachments then marched in solemn 15 minute "honor shifts" guarding the American flag which was displayed prominently on the back wall of the University of Virginia's Amphitheater.

One of the MIAs that these young Cadets honored was U.S. Army Captain Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace, a 1959 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. On July 8, 2002, I had the distinct honor of being present at the White House for the posthumous awarding of the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush for Rocky's conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while a captive of the Viet Cong from October 29, 1965, until he was executed on or about September 26, 1965. His captors took his life after they had given up trying to break Rocky's indomitable will to resist interrogation and indoctrination, his unshakable faith in God, and his steadfast trust in his country and his fellow prisoners.

When I visited the White House last year for Captain Versace's Medal of Honor ceremony, I was among many of Captain Versace's West Point classmates and family members. One of those classmates was John Gurr, who